

1 **CLAIMS**

2 1. A method of processing a multi-media editing project comprising:
3 generating a request for one or more multi-media files for use in a multi-
4 media editing project, the request being generated by a user computer that
5 comprises part of a network where multi-media files are maintained in a network –
6 accessible location;

7 intercepting the request;

8 ascertaining whether a requested multi-media file is located on the user
9 computer;

10 retrieving the multi-media file if the file is located on the user computer;
11 and

12 seeking the requested file from the network-accessible location if the multi-
13 media file is not located on the user computer.

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15 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising asking a user to designate a
16 local directory if a requested file is not found on the user computer.

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18 3. The method of claim 1 further comprising asking a user to designate a
19 local directory if a requested file is not found on the user computer, and then
20 searching for the requested file in a designated local directory before seeking the
21 requested file from the network-accessible location.

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23 4. The method of claim 1, wherein said ascertaining comprises checking
24 various predetermined file directories on the computer's hard drive.
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1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein said ascertaining comprises:
2 maintaining a list of directories where multi-media files have been stored in
3 the past; and
4 checking directories on the list for the requested one or more files.

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6 6. The method of claim 1, wherein said ascertaining comprises:
7 maintaining a list of directories where multi-media files are stored; and
8 checking directories on the list for the requested one or more files.

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10 7. The method of claim 1, wherein said ascertaining comprises:
11 maintaining a list of directories where multi-media files have been stored in
12 the past or are presently stored; and
13 checking directories on the list for the requested one or more files.

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15 8. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
16 maintaining a list of directories where multi-media files are stored; and
17 updating the list responsive to receiving and storing a multi-media file in a
18 local directory that is not on the list.

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20 9. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
21 maintaining a list of directories where multi-media files are stored; and
22 updating the list responsive to a user designating a local directory that is not
23 on the list.

1 **10.** One or more computer-readable media having computer-readable
2 instructions thereon which, when executed by a computer, implement the method
3 of claim 1.

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5 **11.** A multi-media project editing application configured for execution
6 on a user computer, the application being configured to implement the method of
7 claim 1.

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9 **12.** A method of processing a multi-media editing project comprising:
10 maintaining information on a local computer that comprises part of a
11 network having multiple computers, said information being associated with multi-
12 media files that are maintained in a network-accessible location and that can be
13 temporarily stored on the local computer's hard drive; and

14 responsive to a request to retrieve a multi-media file from the network-
15 accessible location, using the information to attempt to locate the requested file on
16 the local computer's hard drive before attempting to retrieve the file in the
17 network-accessible location.

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19 **13.** The method of claim 12, wherein said information comprises a list
20 of local directories where multi-media files are stored.

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22 **14.** The method of claim 12, wherein said information comprises a list
23 of local directories where multi-media files have been stored.

1 15. The method of claim 12, wherein said information comprises a list
2 of local directories where multi-media files are or have been stored.

3
4 16. The method of claim 12 wherein said information comprises a list of
5 local directories where multi-media files are stored, and further comprising asking
6 a user to designate one or more local directories where a requested multi-media
7 file might be stored if the requested file cannot be located in the directories
8 designated on the list.

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10 17. The method of claim 16 further comprising updating the list
11 responsive to a user designating the one or more directories, and searching for
12 multi-media files in the one or more directories on subsequent attempts to locate
13 requested files.

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15 18. One or more computer-readable media having computer-readable
16 instructions thereon which, when executed by a computer, implement the method
17 of claim 12.

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19 19. One or more computer-readable media having computer-readable
20 instructions thereon which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to:

21 maintain a list on a local computer that comprises part of a network having
22 multiple computers, said list being used to determine which local directories have
23 been used in the past, or are currently being used to stored multi-media files that
24 are maintained in a network-accessible location; and
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responsive to a request to retrieve a multi-media file from the network-accessible location, use the list to first attempt to locate the requested file on the local computer's hard drive.

20. The computer-readable media of claim 19, wherein the instructions further cause the computer to attempt to retrieve the requested file in the network-accessible location in the event that the file cannot be located locally.

21. The computer-readable media of claim 19, wherein the instructions cause the computer to check only those local directories that are contained in the list.

22. The computer-readable media of claim 19, wherein the instructions cause the computer to ask a user to designate a local directory where a multi-media file might be stored in the event a requested file cannot be located on the local computer's hard drive.

23. The computer-readable media of claim 22, wherein the instructions cause the computer to update the list to contain a local directory that the user designates.

1 **24.** The computer-readable media of claim 22, wherein the instructions
2 cause the computer to attempt to locate the multi-media file from the designated
3 local directory before attempting to locate the requested multi-media file from the
4 network-accessible location.

5
6 **25.** A method of processing a multi-media editing project comprising:
7 receiving one or more multi-media files from a network-accessible location;
8 locally storing the one or more multi-media files in a local directory on a
9 user computer for use in a multi-media editing project;

10 updating a list of local directories that contain or have contained multi-
11 media files in the past in the event that the one or more multi-media files are
12 stored in a local directory that is not contained in the list;

13 responsive to receiving a request for a multi-media file that is maintained in
14 the network-accessible location:

15 first checking in all of the local directories on the list of local
16 directories for the requested file; and

17 second checking the network-accessible location for the requested
18 file in the event the requested file is not found locally.

19
20 **26.** The method of claim 25 further comprising prior to second
21 checking, asking a user to point to a local directory where the requested file might
22 be stored and checking that local directory for the requested file.

1 **27.** The method of claim 26, wherein said updating comprises doing so
2 responsive to a user pointing to a local directory where the requested file might be
3 stored.

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5 **28.** The method of claim 25, wherein the multi-media files are read only
6 files.

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8 **29.** One or more computer-readable media having computer-readable
9 instructions thereon which, when executed by a computer, implement the method
10 of claim 25.

11
12 **30.** One or more computer-readable media having computer-readable
13 instructions thereon which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to:

14 maintain a list of local directories that are or have been used to store multi-
15 media files on a local user computer, the multi-media files being accessible from a
16 network storage location;

17 generate a request for a multi-media file that is accessible from a network
18 storage location, the request being intended for use in retrieving a multi-media file
19 from the network accessible storage location;

20 intercept the request;

21 ascertain a requested file from the request;

22 first, determine whether the requested file is locally available by checking
23 all of the local directories maintained on the list and retrieve the requested file
24 from a local directory if the file is locally maintained;

1 second, seek the requested file from the network storage location if the file
2 is not locally maintained;

3 store the requested file in a local directory if the requested file is retrieved
4 from the network storage location; and

5 update the list to reflect the local directory if the local directory in which
6 the requested file is stored is not on the list.

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8 **31.** The computer-readable media of claim 30, wherein the instructions
9 cause the computer to update the list responsive to input received from a user.

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11 **32.** A multi-media editing system comprising:
12 a multi-media file locator object configured to intercept network-bound
13 requests for multi-media files and determine whether requested files are locally
14 maintained on a user computer; and

15 a list associated with the file locator object and referencing local file
16 directories on the user computer where multi-media files are stored, the list being
17 used by the file locator object to determine whether requested files are locally
18 maintained on the user computer.

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20 **33.** The system of claim 32, wherein the list references local file
21 directories where files have been maintained in the past.

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23 **34.** The system of claim 32, wherein the locator object is configured to
24 update the list.

1 **35.** The system of claim 32, wherein the locator object is configured to
2 update the list responsive to a multi-media file being stored in a local directory
3 where multi-media files have not been stored before.

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5 **36.** The system of claim 32, wherein the locator object is configured to
6 update the list responsive to a user designating a local directory where a multi-
7 media file is stored.

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9 **37.** The system of claim 32, wherein the locator object is configured to
10 cause one or more multi-media files to be sought through the network in the event
11 that the one or more files are not locally maintained.

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13 **38.** The system of claim 32, wherein the locator object comprises a
14 COM object.

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16 **39.** The system of claim 32, wherein the locator object comprises an
17 object-oriented object.
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